I'M GOING TO BE KILLED!!
AH...
AH...!
WHOOSH
WHO IS THIS MAN POINTING A BLADE AT HER!?

SCRATCH SCRATCH
...COME AGAIN?
MEMO
IT'S PAST CLOSING TIME. AND RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED. I'M CALLING THE COPS. FOLLOW ME TO THE LOBBY.
YOU...
YOU'RE THE CUSTODIAN?
MEMO
IT'S NOT A REAL SWORD. I'M THE CUSTODIAN.
AZAKAWA VILLAGE'S ARCHIVES BUILDING CUSTODIAN
SUGA KOUTAROU

POPULARITY ROSE IN A FLASH! THE SECOND CHAPTER OF THE "KIRISAME" COMIC!!

霧雨が降る森

[SECOND CHAPTER]
KOTORIOBAKE AND OGAMI-SAN.

ORIGINAL STORY NAZUKA KUDAN
COMIC MANDA MAKOTO

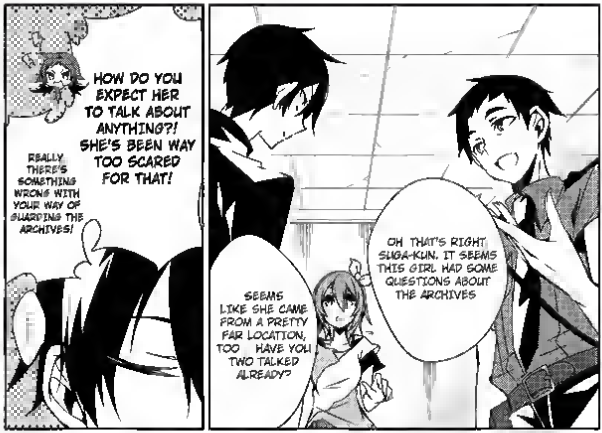
むっすー
POUT
WELL THEN...
I'M GOING TO BRING SAKUMA BACK TO HER HOUSE.

HRGH
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS!

I SWEAR, HOW MANY TIMES DOES THAT MAKE? THINK ABOUT THE TROUBLE YOU'RE CAUSING THE CUSTODIAN SUGA-KUN, AND YOUR PARENTS THEY MUST BE WORRIED SICK
I'LL GO BACK ON MY OWN, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CAUSING TROUBLE FOR YOU TOO OFFICER MOCHIZUKI.

4

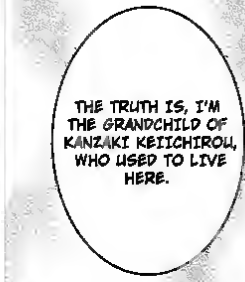
RAISE
EXCUSE ME


HOW DO YOU EXPECT HER TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING?! SHE'S BEEN WAY TOO SCARED FOR THAT!
REALLY THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR WAY OF SNARFING THE ARCHIVES!
OH THAT'S RIGHT SUGA-KUN. IT SEEMS THIS GIRL HAD SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ARCHIVES
SEEMS LIKE SHE CAME FROM A PRETTY FAR LOCATION, TOO HAVE YOU TWO TALKED ALREADY?

SAKUMA!!
AH, EXCUSE ME IT'S TRUE THAT WE HAVEN'T TALKED YET, BUT...
I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR, SO...
OOH! IS THAT SO? THEN EVERYTHING'S FINE.
YES.

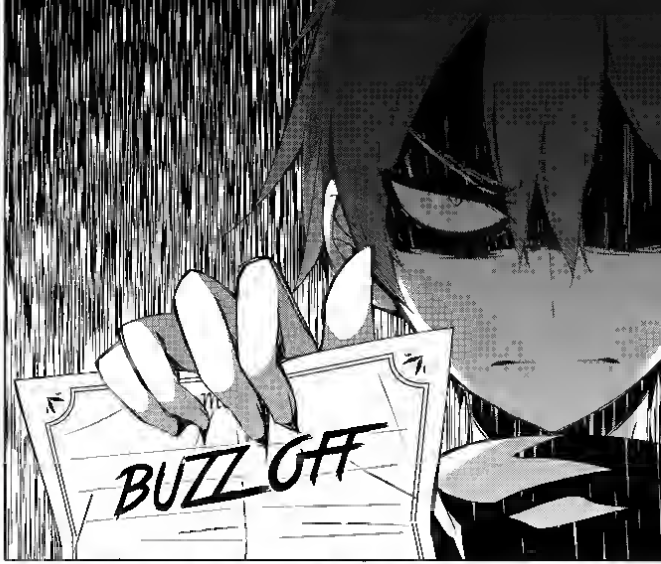
!!
DUE TO SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, I WANTED TO COME HERE AND MAKE SURE IT WAS TRUE

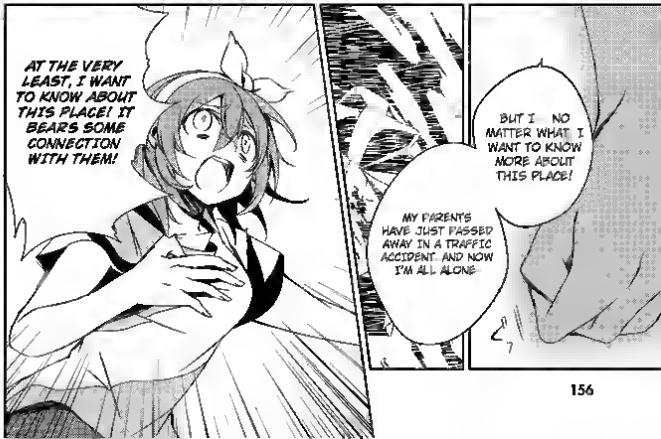
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT. SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE
—YOU HAD A BLOOD RELATIVE WHO LIVED IN THIS HOUSE
YES.
SCRATCH SCRATCH


THE TRUTH IS, I'M THE GRANDCHILD OF KANZAKI KEIICHIROU, WHO USED TO LIVE HERE.

memo
PLEASE GO BACK
I CAN'T PLEASE GO BACK
AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD SHOW ME THE ARCHIVES TOMORROW
A MEMO...?
AH... WELL I WAS THINKING OF FINDING A PLACE TO STAY TONIGHT...

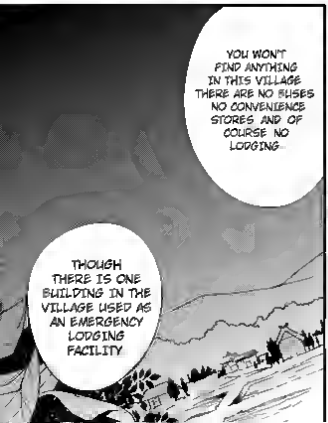
FLAP
I JUST
OF COURSE, I AM NOT ASKING YOU TO JUST HAND OVER THIS MANSION
?
I KNOW IT'S SHAMELESS OF ME TO ASK FOR SUCH A FAVOR


BUZZ OFF


AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE! IT BEARS SOME CONNECTION WITH THEM!
MY PARENTS HAVE JUST PASSED AWAY IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. AND NOW I'M ALL ALONE.
BUT I... NO MATTER WHAT, I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PLACE!

霧雨が降る森

WHAT ARE YOU ARGUING FOR?
WOW, HOW MEAN! "BUZZ OFF," HE SAYS


YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING IN THIS VILLAGE THERE ARE NO BUSES NO CONVENIENCE STORES AND OF COURSE NO LODGING
THOUGH THERE IS ONE BUILDING IN THE VILLAGE USED AS AN EMERGENCY LODGING FACILITY

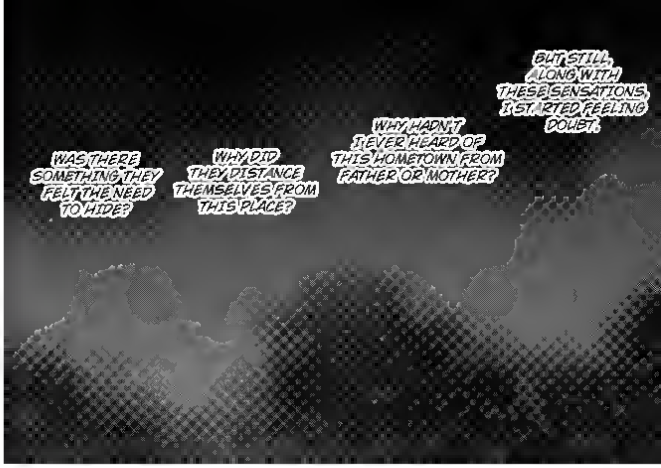
ANYWAY LET'S JUST CALM DOWN FOR NOW. AH THERE'S NO PLACE TO RENT A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT AROUND HERE.
EH?!

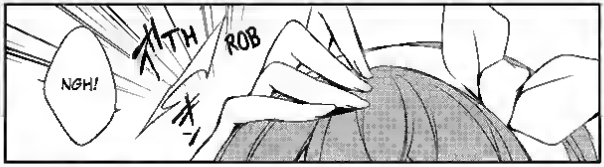
AND IT'S THE ARCHIVES BUILDING.
YOU, AS ITS CUSTODIAN, UNDERSTAND THIS PERFECTLY, AND YET YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT SAY MEAN THINGS TO THIS GIRL.

YEAH, THAT'S HOW IT IS. SO IT SHOULD BE FINE FOR YOU TO STAY HERE TONIGHT.
THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK IN THIS VILLAGE, RIGHT, SUGA-KUN?
.....

POURING RAIN
IN THE END, FROM THAT DAY ON, I LIVED IN THE ARCHIVES BUILDING
IT SEEMS LIKE THE CUSTODIAN HERE CAN'T TALK, SO HE COMMUNICATES WITH NOTES. I WAS TOLD HE CAN HEAR JUST FINE, THOUGH

THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE TO HIM, I'M NOT WELCOME HERE...
HE STRONGLY INSISTED FOR ME TO PROMISE "MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO ANYWHERE OTHER THAN HERE OR INSIDE THE VILLAGE, NO MATTER WHAT."
BUT ONCE I GET MY THOUGHTS IN ORDER, I'M THINKING OF GOING OUTSIDE...
PAF
WHAT I FOUND HERE WAS NOT ONLY THE VILLAGE'S ARCHIVES, BUT MEMORIES OF MY FATHER AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, MY MOTHER...
IN EVERY CONTACT I MADE WITH THEM, MY CHEST FELT BOTH WARM AND, AT THE SAME TIME, STRANGELY OPPRESSED...


BUT STILL, ALONG WITH THESE SENSATIONS, I STARTED FEELING DOUBT.
WHY HADN'T I EVER HEARD OF THIS HOMETOWN FROM FATHER OR MOTHER?
WHY DID THEY DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THIS PLACE?
WAS THERE SOMETHING THEY FELT THE NEED TO HIDE?


NGH!
ROB
TH

IT'S ALMOST CLOSING TIME TOO. I'D BETTER RETURN DOWN STAIRS.
NOW IT'S POURING OUTSIDE!

FINE, I GUESS WHAT ABOUT YOU ONEE-SAN? ARE YOU OKAY SPENDING EVERY DAY IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?
YES, I'M DOING WELL
OH, ONEE-SAN!
SAKUMA-CHAN... HOW ARE YOU?
AH, YEAH, ONEE-SAN, I DO GET THE FEELING YOU'RE FINE. YOU'RE SO
?
13
YOU'RE GOING TO GET SCOLDED AGAIN BY OFFICER MOCHIZUKI YOU KNOW
OFFICER MOCHI-ZUKI!!!
IT'S QUIET HERE... THE GUYS BUGGING ME AT SCHOOL WON'T EVEN COME HERE, SO I CAN RELAX
DO YOU LIKE THIS PLACE?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE SO OFTEN, SAKUMA-CHAN?
NOTHING SPECIAL

AND I HAVE TO ENDURE BOTH HIS KINDNESS AND HIS INSENSIBILITY
HE'S A BUSYBODY
A HOPELESS OPTIMIST.

CREEP
MAYBE BECAUSE HE'S AN OLD MAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OLD MAN"?
HE'S NOT FROM THE VILLAGE ORIGINALLY SO HE HAS A DIFFERENT AURA... AND HE CAN'T READ THE MOOD!
HOW DO I PUT IT...? HE'S HARD TO DEAL WITH
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM VERY MUCH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M JUST DOING THE REGULAR PATROL... ANY PROGRESS IN YOUR RESEARCH?
I THOUGHT I WAS STILL PRETTY YOUNG, BUT...
OFFICER MOCHIZUKI!
GEH!

HMM... I DON'T KNOW ALL THAT MUCH MYSELF, BUT...
YES. I'D LIKE TO LOOK A BIT MORE INTO THIS VILLAGE'S HISTORY, IF POSSIBLE
THE VILLAGE OF AZAKAWA IS LOCATED DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS AND, AS YOU KNOW, HAS POOR TRANSPORTATION ACCESS.
VERY FEW PEOPLE COME HERE.
AS FOR THE INDUSTRY... IT'S MAINLY FARMS, AS EXPECTED. THOUGH I HEARD IT USED TO DEAL WITH MINERAL ORE, TOO.
14
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE STONES SHINING IN BLUE PERHAPS?
OH, SO YOU'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE!
THEY'RE CALLED THE YAKOU STONES. (NIGHT LIGHT STONES)

THERE'S A STRANGE LEGEND ABOUT THESE STONES RIGHT?

IT'S USED TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS.
THEY ARE USUALLY CRAFTED INTO ORNAMENTS AND GIVEN TO CHILDREN.

BUT MOST OF THE DOCUMENTS REGARDING THEM HAVE DISAPPEARED.. SO NOBODY... HEY!
ONEE-SAN, YOU'RE LOOKING PALE!
I'M FINE... PLEASE CONTINUE...
FOR SOME REASON, SINCE EARLIER, MY HEAD...

THEY'RE SAID TO BE THE "STONES OF OBLIVION".
THROB
キリッ

SPEAKING OF YAKOU STONES... HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OGAMI-SAN?
AH...
IT WAS IN THE PICTURE BOOK!
FROM AN IMMEMORIAL TIME, SPIRITUAL MERCHANTS CALLED "OGAMI-SAN" HAVE BEEN PROSPERING IN THIS VILLAGE.
THE VILLAGERS CHOSEN TO BECOME "OGAMI-SAN" WERE ALWAYS ADULTS, AND THEIR UPBRINGING WAS KEPT A SECRET, OR SO I HEARD.
WELL, NOWADAYS THEY DON'T HOLD MUCH INFLUENCE ANYMORE.
BUT IT SEEMS THEY USED YAKOU STONES TO PERFORM THEIR SPIRITUAL PROWESSES.
JUST LIKE IN THE BOOK REMEMBER? "KOTORI OBAKE AND OGAMI-SAN."

SHOCK
EH...?
LONG AGO, THERE WERE FREQUENT CASES OF CHILDREN DISAPPEARING.
THE CHILDREN WENT INTO THE MOUNTAINS, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.
EVEN IF THEY WERE REDISCOVERED...
IT WAS ONLY AS CORPSES...
THAT STORY IS BASED ON ACTUAL EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THIS VILLAGE.

BECAUSE SUCH THINGS HAPPENED...
THE PATH GOING THROUGH THE WOODS INTO THE MOUNTAINS AT THE BACK OF THIS BUILDING...
IS STILL FORBIDDEN FOR ANYONE TO USE.
SHIVER

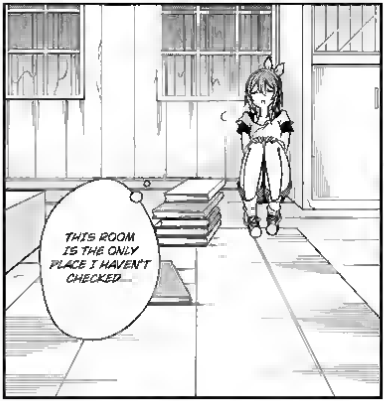
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT CUTTING A WAY THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS TO HELP THE VILLAGE'S DEVELOPMENT, BUT...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT GLOOMY, SERIOUS, FAST-WALKING ELECTRIC PILLAR OF A CUSTODIAN WOULD KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.
NO— FORGET ABOUT THAT. THE GUY CAN'T TALK.

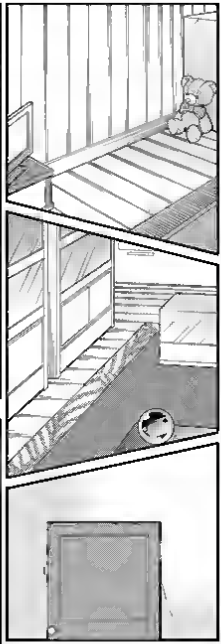
SU... SUGA-SAN...
CREEP
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE LONG AGO EVEN THOUGH HE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOU.
BECAUSE OF THAT NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE COME HERE
IT MAY BE A FAKE SWORD BUT STILL IT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH

AH... UMM, JUST A BIT LONGER?
WHAT ABOUT THAT THING YOU WERE LOOKING INTO?
I HAD SAKUMA-CHAN AND THE OFFICER TELL ME ABOUT IT BUT THERE ARE STILL THINGS I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY MOTHER AND FATHER

CHING
WHAT'S THIS?
YEAH...
BLUSH
QUICKLY FINISH AND HEAD HOME.
IS IT REALLY OK?
DO WHAT YOU WISH WITH THIS SPARE KEY
THANK YOU!!
HMPH

SHUT UP! GRAMPS!!
SAKUMA, HEAD HOME BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE!
WELL, I'M GOING TO RETURN TO MY PATROL. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION!


THIS ROOM IS THE ONLY PLACE I HAVEN'T CHECKED...

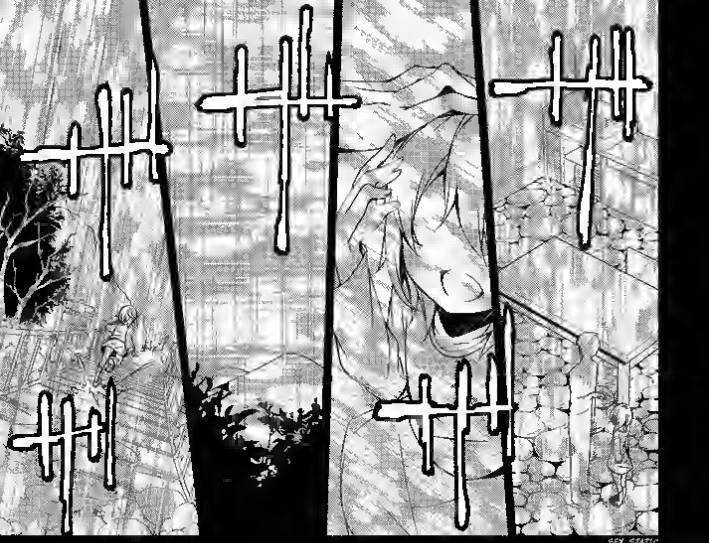


FATHER... MOTHER... GRANDPA...
FATHER
CLATTER

YEAR X MONTH X DAY X

OUR CUTE GRANDCHILD IS BEING RAISED AND CONTINUES TO GROW ENERGETICALLY. WE LOVE YOU, EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE YOU!

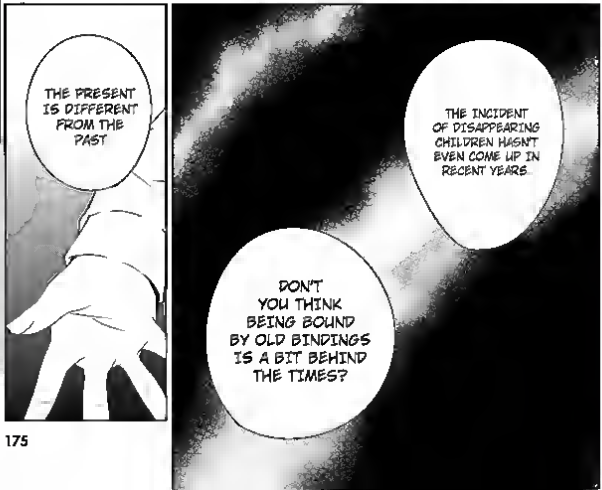
CRRR
POURING
YEAR: X MONTH: X DAY: X
OUR GRANDCHILD GOT ALONG WELL WITH THAT OTHER CHILD. THAT CHILD ALSO SMILED WHEN IN CONTACT WITH OUR GRANDCHILD.
WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS A GOOD THING HAS BECOME QUITE A DISCUSSION. BUT WE JUST PRAY IT'S A GOOD THING.
RAIN
AH...
STAGGER
YEAR: X MONTH: X DAY: X
TODAY IS THE DAY THOSE TWO CHILDREN MADE THE PROMISE
CRRR
THAT CHILD, EVEN TO THIS DAY, INTENDS TO BE A SACRIFICE. WE CAN'T SAY ANYTHING. WE CAN ONLY PRAY FOR IT TO COME TO AN END.



PROMISE

THROB
ズキン!
THROB
ズキン!
MY HEAD HURTS...
IT'S ABOUT TIME I GO BACK DOWNSTAIRS
STEP
THIS IS TROUBLING
FROM OUR STANDPOINT, WE CAN'T LET THE VILLAGE DEGENERATE ANYMORE THAN IT ALREADY HAS
VILLAGE OFFICIAL
SOMEONE FROM THE VILLAGE AND WHAT'S MORE IT'S THAT ANNOYING OFFICIAL
HONESTLY, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE HERE FOR THE LIBRARY?
...?

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE CLEARING THE MOUNTAIN IS A REQUIREMENT
AND FOR THAT, THIS BUILDING'S EXISTENCE IS A BIT OF A PROBLEM
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY MEANING IN MAINTAINING THIS PLACE, WHICH YIELDS NO BENEFITS FOR THE VILLAGE


THE PRESENT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST
THE INCIDENT OF DISAPPEARING CHILDREN HASN'T EVEN COME UP IN RECENT YEARS
DON'T YOU THINK BEING BOUND BY OLD BINDINGS IS A BIT BEHIND THE TIMES?

"KOTORIOBAKE AND OGAMI-SAN" SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY RIDICULOUS STORY
SW
ISH

CRUMPLE
AGAIN WITH THAT MEMO
TAP
GOD TALKING WITH YOU ALWAYS COMES TO THIS...
S... SEE!?
YOU'RE LIKE THAT TO GIVE PEOPLE EVEN MORE OF A REASON NOT TO COME HERE!
IT SEEMS YOU DO NOT WISH TO ACCEPT MY TERMS BUT JUST REMEMBER THAT WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO VOTE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THIS PLACE DURING THE NEXT VILLAGE MEETING
TRY TO KEEP YOUR UNSCIENTIFIC NONSENSE IN CHECK
DON'T COME CRYING IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR NEXT JOB BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SINISTER
WELL, IN YOUR CASE, THERE'S ANOTHER PROBLEM BEFORE THAT
...
STEP

YOU'RE...
THE YOUNG LADY FROM SAKUMA-SAN'S PLACE.

YOU HANGING AROUND IN THIS KIND OF PLACE JUST WON'T DO
THIS IS WHY SAKUMA-SAN WON'T AGREE WITH OUR DEMOLITION PROPOSAL
LIFT
DIE!! YOU RACCOON-DOG OLD BASTARD!!!

IS YOU, I BELIEVE.
THE RUDE ONE ..
THIS TIME, PEOPLE AT YOUR HOME ARE REALLY GOING TO HEAR FROM ME!
WHAT'S WITH THAT!? WHAT A RUDE GIRL!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I'M THE GRAND-DAUGHTER OF KANZAKI KEIICHIROU, THIS PLACE'S FORMER OWNER
WHAT'S WITH YOU? I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU BEFORE

THAT WOULD BE ME.
TO THINK THAT THE KANZAKIS STILL HAD A BLOOD RELATIVE...
GRAND-DAUGHTER!!?

AND AS HIS BLOOD RELATIVE,
WHEN IT COMES TO THIS BUILDING'S RIGHTS, I'M THE ONE WHO HOLDS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY
SO PLEASE DON'T JUST SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT.
A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU IS THE INHERITOR? HAHAHA! STOP IT. I CAN TELL FROM LOOKING THAT YOU'RE A CHILD FROM THE CITY RIGHT?
HAND THIS ESTATE OVER TO THE VILLAGE. YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS. OF COURSE WE ARE READY TO MAKE AN OFFER
PLEASE LEAVE.
...DAMMIT! THIS IS WHY I HATE COWARDS LIKE YOU!
BAST
OMP

TSK
THIS STUPID LEGEND ISN'T WORTH SHIT'! HOW CAN YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT?!
...I WILL LEAVE FOR TODAY!
33
SLAM
I'M SORRY. I JUST SAID WHAT I WANTED TO, BUT I WASN'T BEING SERIOUS. PLEASE DON'T PAY IT ANY MIND, SUGA-SAN.
IT'S JUST I GOT REALLY MAD, LIKE SAKUMA-CHAN DID
LIFT
THANK YOU
NO, DON'T MIND IT.
WANNA GRAB SOME DINNER?

CLATTER
...UGH
POURING
...SURE!
I'D LOVE TO!
RAIN

BUT I ATE IT ALL!
GULP
NEXT TIME, I'LL ASK HIM TO LEAVE THE COOKING TO ME!
SUGA-SAN'S COOKING TASTES JUST LIKE CHARCOAL...
SIP!

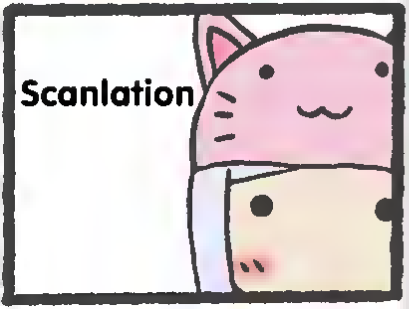
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

...!
WHAT IS THIS...?
THIS NOSTALGIC SENSATION...
UM, SUGA-SAN...
AH, IT'S NOTHING... NO, UM...

BAM
SUGA-KUN!!
ARE YOU HERE!?
BAM
BAM
OPEN UP!!
IT'S ME! MOCHI-ZUKI!
...OFFICER MOCHI-ZUKI?

SAKUMA HAS...

SAKUMA HAS DISAPPEARED!!!
IS IT THE WORK OF THE VILLAGE'S LEGEND?
IS THE KOTORIOKAKE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISAPPEARANCE?
次号につづく
6月号 5月15日(木)発売!!

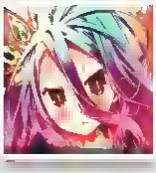


This release was not passible without the fallawing staffs:

REDRAWER:
Jocob
The Minimolist

TYPESETTER:
Lono
The Minuteman

TRANSLATOR:
Nonondou
The Apparition



TRANSLATOR:
Keseno
The Harmany of Nature

PROOFREADER:
xTheGrandRevisarx
The Grammar Nazi